

## Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 NSCE-00 SAJ-01 NIC-01 SAM-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 EB-04

COME-00 TRSE-00 CU-02 DRC-01 /071 W

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R 170208Z OCT 74

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2564

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, ELAB, MORG, PINT, CH

SUBJECT: PRC URBAN MILITIA AND PRODUCTION

SUMMARY: CURRENT PRC MEDIA ACCOUNTS OF MILITIA BUILDING ARE REEMPHASIZING THE MILITIA'S TRADITIONAL ROLE AS A CATALYST TO PRDUCTION BY URGING IT TO TAKE A LEADING ROLE IN THE CAM-PAIGN TO LEARN FROM TACHING AND TACHAI. FOCUSING PRIMARILY ON DEVELOPMENTS IN THE URBAN MILITIA, MOST BROADCASTS STRESS THAT MILITARY TRAINING IS NOT TO INTERFERE WITH PRODUCTION. END SUMMARY.

1. CURRENT PRC MEDIA EMPHASIS ON MILITIA BUILDING HIGHLIGHTS ITS ROLE--AS A CATALYST--IN PRODUCTION. BEGINNING IN LATE SEPTEMBER, APPARENTLY IN OBSERVANCE OF THE SIXTEENTH ANNI-VERSARY OF MAO'S GREAT LEAP CALL FOR THE FORMATION OF A MASS MILITIA, PROVINCIAL AND NATIONAL MEDIA REPORTS HAVE DESCRIBED THE MILITIA'S ROLE IN PRODUCTION AS THAT OF A "SHOCK TROOP" ABLE TO OVERCOME ESPECIALLY DIFFICULT OBSTACLES AND AS A "BACKBONECORE" OF LABOR TO BE EMULATED BY FELLOW WORKERS. ALTHOUGH THESE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN PART OF ITS FUNCTIONS, THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MILITIA IS NOW ALSO URGED TO TAKE A "LEADING ROLE" IN THE

CURRENT MOVEMENTS TO LEARN FROM TACHING IN INDUSTRY AND FROM TACHAI IN AGRICULTURE.

2. A PEKING BORADCAST HAS CITED THE URBAN MILITIA IN SHANGHAI AS AN EXAMPLE TO BE EMULATED BY THE REST OF THE COUNTRY. IT STATES THAT SHANGHAI, AFTER AN "ESPECIALLY PROTRACTED STRUGGLE" (THIS PHRASE WAS LATER DELETED BY A SERVICE MESSAGE), BUILT UP ITS ARMED URBAN MILITIA UNITS WITH "INDUSTRIAL WORKERS AS THE CORE." SOME ENTERPRISES, COMBINED MILITIA, SECURITY, AND FIRE-FIGHTING UNITS INTO ONE ORGANIZATION, THEREBY "FURTHER STRENGTHENING THE PARTY'S CENTRALIZED LEADERSHIP OVER MILITIA AND SECURITY WORK." PEKING, TIENTSIN AND OTHER "LARGE AND MEDIUM-SIZED CITIES" HAVE STUDIED SHANGHAI'S EXPERIENCE AND HAVE EXPANDED THEIR URBAN MILITIA UNITS IN THE SAME WAY (NCNA OCTOBER 7).

3. ALTHOUGH OSTENSIBLY AIMED AT PROMOTING DEFENSE AND SECURITY, THE MILITIA IS NOT TO ALLOW MILITARY TRAINING TO INTERFERE WITH PRODUCTION. VARIOUS MEDIA CODE PHRASES- WHICH DESCRIBE MILITIA MILITARY TRAINING AS BEING CONDUCTED ON A "SMALL SCALE, IN THE PLACES WHERE THEY ARE STATIONED AND IN DIVERSIFIED WAYS"--MAKE THIS ABUNDANTLY CLEAR, THE PEKING BROADCAST REFERRED TO THE MILITIA AS COMBINING "PRODUCTIVE LABOR WITH MILITARY TRAINING" AND LINKED THIS WITH PAYING "MORE ATTENTION TO WHAT IS IMPORTANT." AS AN EXAMPLE TO BE EMULATED, THE REPORT CITES A MILITIA BATTALION THAT CONDUCTED CLOSE ORDER DRILL TO AND FROM THE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT AND GAINED EXPERIENCE IN DEMOLITION WHILE BLASTING MOUNTAINS FOR ROCKS. EXCESS LABOR, GENERALLY AVAILABLE IN PRC FACTORIES, SHOULD ALSO ASSIST MOST MANAGERS IN MEETING ADDITIONAL MILITIA REQUIREMENTS WITHOUT AFFECTING OUTPUT. FOR EXAMPLE, A RECENT VISITOR THOUGHT THAT ONE ELECTRONICS FACTORY IN THE SHANGHAI AREA HAD ABOUT THREE TIMES AS MANY PERSONNEL AS A COMPARABLE PLANT IN THE US OR EUROPE.

4. MUCH OF THE MEDIA DISCUSSION OF MILITIA REORGANIZATION AND EXPANSION OF DUTIES SEEMS DIRECTED AT THE URBAN RATHER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAN THE RURAL MILITIA AND THUS NATURALLY HIGHLIGHTS THE ROLE OF INDUSTRIAL WORKERS. MOST STRIKING, IN LIGHT OF THE URGAN MILITIA'S IDENTIFICATION IN SOME AREAS-- PARTICULARLY IN SHANGHAI--WITH LEFTIST THEMES OF THE ANTI-CONFUCIUS MOVEMENT (AS A "SOCIALIST NEWBORN THING"), AND ITS PERHAPS INCREASED PARA-MILITARY ROLE, IS THE CONCERN SHOWN FOR NOT ALLOWING TRAINING OR DUTIES TO INTERFERE WITH PRODUCTION.

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## Message Attributes

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